

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DONTE SUTTON,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALTAMIRANO, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:23-cv-01633-KES-BAM (PC)

ORDER REGARDING DEFENDANT’S
MOTION TO COMPEL, AND DIRECTING
THE PARTIES TO MEET AND CONFER

(ECF No. 28)

Plaintiff Donte Sutton (“Plaintiff”) is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis* in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This action proceeds on Plaintiff’s first amended complaint against Defendant Altamirano (“Defendant”) for deliberate indifference to medical care for the incident on August 8, 2022, in violation of the Eighth Amendment.

On June 4, 2025, Defendant filed a motion to compel Plaintiff to respond to Defendant’s propounded written discovery, including interrogatories and requests for production of documents, set one.¹ (ECF No. 28.)

Under this Court’s discovery and scheduling order, the parties are relieved of the requirement in Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26 and 37, and Local Rule 251, to attempt to

¹ Defendant’s motion also includes a request for an order extending the deadline to file a dispositive motion. (ECF No. 28.) This request will be addressed upon resolution of the motion to compel, and any affected deadlines will be continued, as necessary and applicable.

1 confer in good faith to resolve a discovery dispute prior to filing any motion to compel.

2 Voluntary compliance is encouraged, but not required. The Court's order further provides that
3 the meet and confer requirement may be reimposed in any case that the Court deems it
4 appropriate. (ECF No. 24, p. 2.)

5 Upon review of the motion to compel referenced above, the Court finds it appropriate to
6 require the parties to engage in a meet and confer conference regarding their discovery dispute.
7 Defense counsel is directed to contact Plaintiff by telephone or videoconference, or to set-up an
8 in-person meeting, regarding the parties' discovery dispute within **twenty-one (21) days** of the
9 date of this order. Briefing on the motion to compel is stayed during the meet and confer process,
10 and the opposing party is relieved of their obligation to respond to the motion until further order
11 of the Court.

12 In conducting the meet and confer conference, the parties are reminded that they are
13 required to act in good faith during the course of discovery. Complete, accurate, and truthful
14 discovery responses are required. False or incomplete responses violate the Federal Rules of
15 Civil Procedure and subject an offending party and/or counsel to sanctions. Boilerplate
16 objections will not be tolerated and will be summarily overruled. Privileges are narrowly
17 construed and are generally disfavored. Information not properly disclosed may be excluded
18 from use at a hearing, motion, or trial.

19 Within **seven (7) days** of the parties' conference, defense counsel shall file a Joint
20 Statement regarding the meet and confer conference. All parties shall participate in the
21 preparation of the Joint Statement, and must sign the Joint Statement. Electronic signatures are
22 acceptable; a wet signature is not required.

23 The Joint Statement shall set forth the following:

24 (a) a statement that the parties met and conferred in good faith regarding the dispute, by
25 phone, videoconference, or in-person, including the date(s) of the conference(s);

26 (b) a statement explaining whether the motion to compel was resolved in full or in part
27 through the meet and confer process; and

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(c) if any issues from the motion remain unresolved, a statement referring the court to each specific discovery request that is still at issue.

Upon review of the Joint Statement, the Court shall issue a further order regarding the motion to compel. No additional filings may be made regarding the motion to compel unless and until ordered by the Court.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Within **twenty-one (21) days** of the date of service of this order, the parties are ordered to meet and confer regarding Defendant's motion to compel, (ECF No. 28), as outlined above;
2. Plaintiff is relieved of the obligation to respond to the motion to compel until further order of the Court;
3. Within **seven (7) days** of the date of the parties' conference, a Joint Statement shall be filed in this matter as outlined above; and
4. **The parties are warned that the failure to meet and confer in good faith as set forth in this order, or to comply with any of its terms, will result in the imposition of sanctions, which may include dismissal of the action.**

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 4, 2025

/s/ Barbara A. McAuliffe
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE